

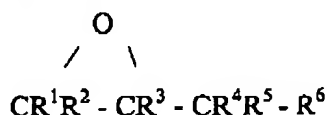
Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) ~~A pigment composition comprising:~~

~~pigment particles, and an epoxy compound for surface treating the pigment particles, A powdered pigment composition prepared by subjecting pigment particles to a surface treatment by an epoxy compound, the epoxy compound having a general formula:~~



wherein R¹, R², R³, R⁴ and R⁵ are each, independently, hydrogen, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or, R² and R⁴ may be taken together to form a 5-7 membered ring, and

R⁶ is hydrogen, -OOCR⁷, -OR⁸, -OOC-CR⁹=CR¹⁰R¹¹, a monoepoxy or polyepoxy group containing diphenyl, phenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or cycloalkyl, or a monoepoxy or polyepoxy group containing a polyether group,

R⁷, R⁸, R¹⁰ and R¹¹ are each, independently, hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl,

R⁹ is hydrogen, or alkyl,

with the proviso that the epoxy compound has no silicon-containing group.

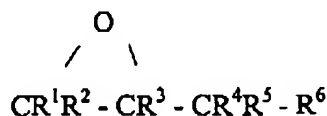
2. (Original) The pigment composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the epoxy compound has an epoxy equivalent weight of less than 1000.

3. (Original) The pigment composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the epoxy compound is selected from a group consisting of glycidyl ethers, glycidyl esters, cycloaliphatic epoxy compounds, and cycloaliphatic diepoxy compounds.

4. (Original) The pigment composition as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the epoxy compound is selected from a group consisting of glycidyl methacrylates and glycidyl acrylates.

5. (Currently amended) A pigment dispersion comprising:

a dispersing agent, and ~~pigment particles dispersed in the dispersing agent, the pigment particles being treated with a powdered pigment composition which is dispersed in the dispersing agent, and which is prepared by subjecting pigment particles to a surface treatment by an epoxy compound having the general formula:~~



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are each, independently, hydrogen, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or R^2 and R^4 may be taken together to form a 5-7 membered ring, and

R^6 is hydrogen, $-\text{OOCR}^7$, $-\text{OR}^8$, $-\text{OOC}-\text{CR}^9=\text{CR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$, a monoepoxy or polyepoxy group containing diphenyl, phenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or cycloalkyl, or a monoepoxy or polyepoxy group containing a polyether group,

R^7 , R^8 , R^{10} and R^{11} are each, independently, hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl,

R^9 is hydrogen, or alkyl,

with the proviso that the epoxy compound has no silicon-containing group.

6. (Original) The pigment dispersion as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the epoxy compound has an epoxy equivalent weight of less than 1000.

7. (Currently amended) The pigment dispersion as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the epoxy compound is selected from group consisting of glycidyl ethers, glycidyl esters, ~~cycloaliphatic~~ cycloaliphatic epoxy compounds, and cycloaliphatic diepoxy compounds.

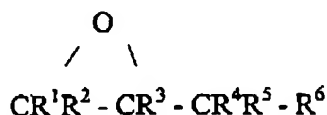
8. (Original) The pigment dispersion as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the epoxy compound is selected from a group consisting of glycidyl methacrylates and glycidyl acrylates.

9. (Original) A method of surface treating pigment particles, comprising:

mixing the pigment particles with an epoxy compound in the presence of a solvent to form a slurry; and

causing the pigment particles to react with the epoxy compound at an elevated temperature,

wherein the epoxy compound has a general formula



wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 are each, independently, hydrogen, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, or R^2 and R^4 may be taken together to form a 5-7 membered ring, and

R^6 is hydrogen, $-\text{OOCR}^7$, $-\text{OR}^8$, $-\text{OOC}-\text{CR}^9=\text{CR}^{10}\text{R}^{11}$, a monoepoxy or polyepoxy group containing diphenyl, phenyl, or substituted or unsubstituted alkyl or cycloalkyl, or a monoepoxy or polyepoxy group containing a polyether group,

R^7 , R^8 , R^{10} and R^{11} are each, independently, hydrogen, substituted or unsubstituted alkyl, substituted or unsubstituted aryl, or substituted or unsubstituted alkenyl,

R^9 is hydrogen, or alkyl,

with the proviso that the epoxy compound has no silicon-containing group.

10. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the epoxy compound has an epoxy equivalent weight of less than 1000.

11. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the epoxy compound is selected from a group consisting of glycidyl ethers, glycidyl esters, ~~eye~~cycloaliphatic~~cycloaliphatic~~ epoxy compounds, and cycloaliphatic diepoxy compounds.

12. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the epoxy compound is selected from a group consisting of glycidyl methacrylates and glycidyl acrylates.

13. (Original) The method as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising the step of removing the solvent and drying the pigment particles treated with the epoxy compound.